One of the major Potomac tributaries, the Monocacy River drains a rich agricultural area in Maryland and Pennsylvania, and the city of Frederick, Md., 13 miles north of the mouth. The river near Frederick was the site of the Battle of the Monocacy, July 9, 1864. The Monocacy Aqueduct, carrying the canal over the river, was a major engineering and construction achievement. It was completed in 1833; a five-mile railroad was constructed to bring stone from a quarry to the construction site. It is still considered one of the canal’s most outstanding structures. Fishing at the mouth of the river is excellent. A picnic area and boat ramp are located on the east side of the aqueduct. Canoeing is good in the Monocacy; put in at Route 28, three miles upstream.

One of the largest producers of aquatic plants in the world, Lilypons (10 miles north off the map) has been in operation since 1917. The operatic soprano, Lily Pons, visited here in 1942 and subsequently mailed her Christmas cards from here every year. Open seven days a week, March-October. Nearby, along the Monocacy, is the site of the New Bremen Glassmanufactory begun by John Frederick Amelung in 1784. Amelung was responsible for the first inscribed glass pieces and the first copper wheel engraving in the U.S. Sugarloaf Mountain (four miles east off the map) is a 1,282-foot mountain, part of 3,000-acre National Landmark owned and operated by Stronghold, Inc. Good hiking trails.